

MEDIA STATEMENT
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MEC RACHOENE WELCOMES 210 YOUNG PEOPLE INTO APPRENTICESHIP AND LEARNERSHIP PROGRAMME

As part of commemorating Youth Month and advancing skills development among young people in Limpopo, the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Ernest Rachoene, today officially welcomed 210 YOUNG candidates into the Department's Apprenticeship and Learnership Programme under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP).

The recruitment process for the learners and apprentices commenced in December 2025 and culminated in the appointment of successful candidates who will now embark on a comprehensive three-year vocational skills training programme.

The candidates will receive both theoretical and practical training in various trades, including Welding, Plumbing, Bricklaying, Electrical, Fitting, Diesel Mechanics, Community House Building, and Carpentry.

Upon completion of the institutional training phase, participants will be deployed to departmental cost centres across the province to acquire valuable workplace experience and practical skills.

The programme is implemented in partnership with the Construction Education and Training Authority (CETA) and the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (MerSETA), ensuring that participants receive accredited training that responds to the needs of the labour market and the broader economy.

This initiative forms part of the Department's EPWP five-year exit strategy, as pronounced by MEC Rachoene during the 2026/27 Budget Vote Speech.

Addressing the newly recruited candidates MEC Rachoene reaffirmed government's commitment to youth empowerment through skills development.

"Today we reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that young people are equipped with the skills, knowledge and practical experience required to contribute meaningfully to economic growth and the development of our province." said Rachoene.

The youngest member of the Limpopo Provincial Legislature, Hon. Faith Sehopela, also encouraged the candidates to make the most of the opportunity presented to them.

"We are here today to welcome future carpenters, welders, electricians and artisans. Use this opportunity wisely, remain committed to your training." said Sehopela.

Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, the candidates expressed gratitude for the opportunity, noting that the programme helps bridge the gap between learning and earning while providing a clear pathway to meaningful employment and self-reliance.

The programme also resonates with the 2026 Youth Month theme, "Reset@50: The Future Calls. "

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